



How To Obtain Certified Copies Of Marriage And Divorce Records



Upon request, this document will be made available in Braille, large print, and audiocassette or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write:

California Office of Vital Records
M.S. 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
Telephone: (916) 445-2684
California Relay: 711/1-800-735-2929
www.cdph.ca.gov

February 2009

Certified Copies of Marriage and Divorce Records

What is the Office of Vital Records?

The Office of Vital Records (OVR) is the State Registrar for the State of California. We maintain permanent records of public marriages that have occurred in California since July 1905.

Does your office issue certified copies of *public marriage* certificates?

The Office of Vital Records maintains a permanent record of California **public** marriages.

We **can** provide certified copies of certificates for public marriages that occurred in the years:

- 1949 through 1986
- 1998 through 1999



We **cannot** provide certified copies of certificates for public marriages that occurred in the years:

- 1905 through 1948 *
- 1987 through 1997 *
- 2000-Present *

* While we do preserve these records in our office, due to the time-consuming process of searching marriage records, we **are not able to provide** certified copies of certificates for these years. You will need to contact the County Recorder in the county where the license was issued. (A list of County Recorders is attached.)

Does your office issue certified copies of *confidential marriage* certificates?

Our office **does not maintain** records of **confidential** marriages – you must request these certificates through the County Clerk in the county where the license was issued. (A list of County Clerks is attached.)

What is a “Confidential” Marriage?

A confidential marriage is a marriage that can be performed only for two parties who have been living together as spouses. Only the two parties involved can get a copy of the confidential marriage certificate (confidential marriage records are not open to public inspection except with a court order).

Does your office issue certified copies of divorce certificates?

Our office maintains divorce records ***only for the years 1962 through June 1984***. These records consist only of the face sheet of the divorce action – ***not the actual divorce decree***. We are only able to provide you with a Certificate of Record, which includes the names of the parties, filing date, county, and case number of the divorce. Copies of the ***actual divorce decree*** can only be obtained from the Superior Court in the county where the divorce took place.

You can access the following website for Superior Court contact information: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts.

What is the fee for a certified copy of a marriage or divorce certificate?

- Marriage Certificate: \$13
Divorce Certificate: \$13
- Fees are nonrefundable (per state law).
- Fees are established in the California Health and Safety Code, which authorizes our office to keep the fee when it searches for a record even if no certified copy is issued. For this reason, you should provide as much information as possible so we can locate the correct record.
- If we cannot locate the record based on the information you provide, we will keep the fee (for our searching efforts) and issue a Certificate of No Public Record.
- Our office is separate from the local registrars and county recorders, so fees previously paid to these offices cannot be transferred to our office.

Does OVR issue free certified copies?

- We only issue free copies to:
 - Local child support agencies*** and ***district attorneys*** for child support enforcement (Government Code Section 6103.9 [a]),
 - Veterans*** (or their representatives) for the purpose of establishing military benefits (Government Code Section 6107 [a]) (***if the request comes through the Veterans Administration Office***),
 - Victims of crime*** (or their representatives) in connection with a claim under the Victims of Crime Act (Government Code Sections 13952-13954).
- Fees should be paid by check or money order payable to ***Office of Vital Records***. International money orders for out-of-country requests should be payable in U.S. dollars.

What is the fastest way to get a certified copy of a marriage or divorce certificate?

Due to the increased and urgent need for certified copies of birth certificates as proof of identity, OVR is experiencing lengthy delays in the processing time for marriage records. Since this processing time can easily exceed six months, you should submit your request for a marriage record to the County Recorder's Office in the county where the marriage license was issued.

Marriage: The County Recorder in the county where the license was issued. (A list of County Recorders is attached.)

Divorce: The Superior Court in the county where the divorce was filed. The following website provides Superior Court contact information: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts.

What if I do not know the county where the event took place?

Because of our lengthy processing time, we encourage you to contact the above offices. If you have exhausted all efforts and cannot identify the appropriate county, you can return your request to our office – **but only for the event years identified on the first page of this pamphlet.**



To ensure that we do not return your request to you for referral to the county office, **it is important that you include a note that you are not able to identify the specific county where the event took place.**

What do I submit to get a certified copy of a marriage or divorce certificate?

- An application is included in this pamphlet. You can photocopy additional copies if needed, or download it from our website: <http://apps.cdph.ca.gov/AutoForm2/default.aspx?af=1184>.
- Complete the appropriate sections for the type of record you're requesting (marriage or divorce) – be sure to complete all appropriate items on the application.
- Complete a separate application for each record requested.
- Mail the following items to our office using the address on the front of this pamphlet:
 - Completed application
 - \$13 fee
- If any of the required items are not included, your request will be returned to you for correction.

**How will I know
if my request has
been accepted?**

Once your request has been received and evaluated, we will send you either:

- A postcard letting you know your request has been accepted, and reminding you of our processing time.
- If your request is not accepted (e.g., due to insufficient fee, insufficient information, etc.), we will return your request to you with a letter explaining what needs to be corrected.

Please allow about 6 weeks to receive these documents.

**What if I still
have questions?**

If you have read this pamphlet thoroughly and still have questions that were not answered in this pamphlet, please call our Customer Service Unit at (916) 445-2684 (Monday through Friday).

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE RECORD

Public Marriage Records: Maintained in the Office of Vital Records since July 1, 1905.

- **1905 Through 1948, 1987 Through 1997, and 2000 to Present:** While we do preserve these records in our office, due to the time-consuming process of searching marriage records, we *are not able to provide* certified copies of certificates for these years. You will need to contact the County Recorder in the county where the license was issued.
- **1949 Through 1986, and 1998 Through 1999:** Due to the increased and urgent need for certified copies of birth certificates as proof of identity, OVR is experiencing lengthy delays in the processing time for marriage records. Since this processing time can easily exceed six months, you should submit your request for a marriage record to the County Recorder's Office in the county where the marriage license was issued.

Confidential Marriage Records: We *do not maintain* confidential marriage records. Contact the County Clerk's Office in the county where the marriage license was issued.

Divorce Records: Maintained only for the years 1962 through June 1984. For these years, we are only able to provide you with a Certificate of Record, which identifies the names of the parties, filing date, county, and case number of the divorce. Copies of the *actual divorce decree* can only be obtained from the Superior Court in the county where the divorce took place. *Our processing time for divorce records can be quite lengthy.*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a separate application for each different record that you are requesting. Include \$13 for each copy requested. If we cannot locate the record based on the information you provide, state law requires that we keep the fee (for our searching efforts), but we will provide you with a Certificate of No Public Record.
2. Provide as much information as possible to help us locate the specific record you are requesting. Complete **First and Second Person Information** for marriage requests, and/or divorce requests. If the information you provide is incomplete or inaccurate, we may not be able to locate the record.
3. Identify the number of copies you want. Include a check or money order (for out-of-country requests, use an international money order payable in U.S. dollars) made payable to the **Office of Vital Records**. Mail this application and the fee to the Office of Vital Records, M.S. 5103, P.O. Box 997410, Sacramento, CA 95899-7410.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW EXCEPT WHERE SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED

APPLICANT INFORMATION – You MUST Complete This Section				
Purpose for Which Certified Copy is to Be Used		Today's Date		Area Code and Telephone ()
Name of Person Completing Application (Please Print)		Signature of Person Requesting Record(s)		
Mailing Address – Number, Street		City		State ZIP Code
Name of Person Receiving Copies, if Different From Above		Number of Copies	Amount Enclosed	Purpose of Request
Mailing Address for Copies, if Different From Above		City		State ZIP Code
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE: Complete First and Second Person Information				
Name of First Person – First Name		Middle Name	Current Last Name	Birth Last Name
Date of Birth	Place of Birth		Name of Father/Parent of First Person	
Name of Second Person – First Name		Middle Name	Current Last Name	Birth Last Name
Date of Birth	Place of Birth		Name of Father/Parent of Second Person	
Date of Marriage – Month, Day, Year		If Date Unknown, Enter Year(s) to be Searched	County That Issued License	County of Marriage
DIVORCE CERTIFICATE: Complete First and Second Person Information				
Name of First Person – First Name		Middle Name	Current Last Name	Birth Last Name
Name of Second Person – First Name		Middle Name	Current Last Name	Birth Last Name
Date of Divorce – Month, Day, Year		If Date Unknown, Enter Year(s) to be Searched	County of Divorce	

CALIFORNIA COUNTY CLERKS

Alameda..... Courthouse, 1106 Madison St., 1st Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 272-6565
 Alpine..... P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120, (530) 694-2281
 Amador..... 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642, (209) 223-6468
 Butte..... 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7691
 Calaveras..... Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-6372
 Colusa 546 Jay Street, Colusa, CA 95932-2491, (530) 458-0500
 Contra Costa..... 555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, (925) 335-7899
 Del Norte..... 981 H Street, Suite 160, Crescent City, CA 95531, (707) 464-7216
 El Dorado 360 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667, (530) 621-5490
 Fresno..... 2221 Kern Street, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 488-3375
 Glenn..... Courthouse, 526 W. Sycamore Street, Willows, CA 95988-2746, (530) 934-6412
 Humboldt Courthouse, 825 Fifth Street, 5th Floor, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 445-7382
 Imperial Courthouse, 940 Main Street, Suite 206, El Centro, CA 92243-2865, (760) 482-4427
 Inyo Courthouse, P.O. Box F, Independence, CA 93526, (760) 878-0222
 Kern 1115 Truxton Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639, (661) 868-3516
 Kings Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, CA 93230-9910, (559) 582-3211 X 2302
 Lake Courthouse, 225 N. Forbes Street, Lakeport CA 95453, (707) 263-2311
 Lassen Courthouse, 220 S. Lassen Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 251-8216
 Los Angeles 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, (562) 462-2716
 Madera..... 200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637, (559) 675-7721
 Marin..... 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 247, Civic Center Courthouse, San Rafael, CA 94903 OR P.O. Box E, San Rafael, CA 94913-3904, (415) 499-6140
 Mariposa Courthouse, P.O. Box 247, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-2005
 Mendocino 501 Low Gap Road, #1020, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 463-4370
 Merced 2222 M Street, Room 14, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 385-7501
 Modoc Box 130, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-6201
 Mono..... Annex 2 Bryant Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517, (760) 932-5530
 Monterey 240 Church Street, P.O. Box 29, Salinas, CA 93902, (831) 755-5404
 Napa 900 Coombs Street, Room 116, P.O. Box 298, Napa, CA 94559-0298, (707) 253-4247
 Nevada HEW Building, Suite E, 10433 Willow Valley Road, Nevada City, CA 95959, (530) 265-1298
 Orange..... 12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 106, P.O. Box 238, Santa Ana, CA 92702, (714) 834-2887
 Placer 2954 Richardson Drive, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 886-5610
 Plumas..... 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA 95971, (530) 283-6218
 Riverside 2724 Gateway Drive, P.O. Box 751, Riverside, CA 92502-0751, (951) 486-7000
 Sacramento..... 600 8th Street, P. O. Box 839, Sacramento, CA 95812-0839, (916) 874-6334
 San Benito..... Room 206, Courthouse, Hollister, CA 95023-3896, (831) 636-4029
 San Bernardino..... 222 W. Hospitality Lane, 1st Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0022, (909) 387-3921
 San Diego..... 1600 Pacific Highway, 2nd Floor, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 237-0502
 San Francisco One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 168, San Francisco, CA 94102-4678, (415) 554-4950
 San Joaquin 6 South El Dorado Avenue, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 1968, Stockton, CA 95201-1968, (209) 468-2362
 San Luis Obispo... 1144 Monterey Street, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-5088
 San Mateo Special Services, Room B, 1st Floor, 555 County Center Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063-1665, (650) 363-4712
 Santa Barbara..... 1100 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 568-2250
 Santa Clara..... Superior Court Building, 170 Park Plaza, San Jose, CA 95113, (408) 299-8583
 Santa Cruz..... 701 Ocean Street, Room 230, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-2800
 Shasta 1643 Market Street, Redding, CA 96001, OR P.O. Box 990880, Redding, CA 96099-0880, (530) 225-5730
 Sierra..... P.O. Drawer D, Downieville, CA 95936, (530) 289-3295
 Siskiyou Courthouse, P.O. Box 338, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-8084
 Solano 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533, (707) 784-7510
 Sonoma 2300 County Center Drive, Suite B 177, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, (707) 565-3800
 Stanislaus 1021 I Street, Suite 101, P. O. Box 1670, Modesto, CA 95353-1670, (209) 525-5211
 Sutter..... 433 Second Street, Yuba City, CA 95991, OR P.O. Box 1555, Yuba City, CA 95922-1555, (530) 822-7120
 Tehama..... P.O. Box 250, Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-3350
 Trinity P.O. Box 1215, Weaverville, CA 96093-1215, (530) 623-1222
 Tulare..... 221 S. Mooney Boulevard, Room 103, Visalia, CA 93291-4593, (559) 733-6374
 Tuolumne 2nd Floor, Admin. Bldg., 2 South Green Street, Suite E, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 533-5570
 Ventura..... 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, (805) 654-2266
 Yolo..... 625 Court Street, Room B01, Woodland, CA 95695, (530) 666-8264
 Yuba..... 915 8th Street, Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901, (530) 749-7851

CALIFORNIA COUNTY RECORDERS

Alameda.....	1106 Madison Street, Room 214, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 272-6363
Alpine.....	P.O. Box 217, Markleeville, CA 96120-0217, (530) 694-2286
Amador.....	810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642, (209) 223-6468
Butte.....	25 County Center Drive, Administration Building., Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7691
Calaveras.....	Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-6372
Colusa.....	546 Jay Street, Colusa, CA 95932-2491, (530) 458-0500
Contra Costa.....	555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, (925) 646-2365
Del Norte.....	981 H Street, Suite 160, Crescent City, CA 95531, (707) 464-7216 or 7205
El Dorado.....	360 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667, (530) 621-5490
Fresno.....	2281 Tulare Street, Room 303, or P.O. Box 766, Fresno, CA 93712, (559) 488-3476
Glenn.....	526 West Sycamore Street, Courthouse, Willows, CA 96988, (530) 934-6412
Humboldt.....	825 5th Street, Fifth Floor, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 445-7382
Imperial.....	940 Main Street, Room 206, El Centro, CA 92243-2865, (760) 482-4272
Inyo.....	Courthouse, 168 N. Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526, (760) 878-0222
Kern.....	1655 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 868-6400
Kings.....	Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 582-3211, X 2475
Lake.....	Courthouse, 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport, CA 95453, (707) 263-2293
Lassen.....	Courthouse, 220 S. Lassen Street, Room 5, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 251-8234
Los Angeles.....	12400 Imperial Highway, Room 1002, Norwalk, CA 90650, (562) 462-2137
Madera.....	200 West 4 th Street, Madera, CA 93637, (559) 675-7724
Marin.....	3501 Civic Center Drive, Courthouse, Room 234, San Rafael, CA 94903, (415) 499-6094
Mariposa.....	4982 10th Street, P.O. Box 35, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-2332
Mendocino.....	501 Low Gap Road, #1020, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 463-4376
Merced.....	2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 385-7627
Modoc.....	204 Court Street, Room 107, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-6205
Mono.....	83 Main Street, P.O. Box 237, Bridgeport, CA 93517-0237, (760) 932-5530
Monterey.....	Church and Alisal Street, P.O. Box 29, Salinas, CA 93902-0029, (831) 755-5041
Napa.....	900 Coombs Street, Room 116, P.O. Box 298, Napa, CA 94559-2936, (707) 253-4105
Nevada.....	950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959, (530) 265-1221
Orange.....	12 Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 238, Santa Ana, CA 92702-0238, (714) 834-2500
Placer.....	2954 Richardson Drive, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 886-5600
Plumas.....	520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA 95971, (530) 283-6218
Riverside.....	2724 Gateway Drive, or P.O. Box 751, Riverside, CA 92502-0751, (951) 486-7000
Sacramento.....	600 8th Street, or P.O. Box 839, Sacramento, CA 95812-0839, (916) 874-6334
San Benito.....	440 5th Street, Room 206, Hollister, CA 95023-3896, (831) 636-4029
San Bernardino.....	222 W. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0022, (909) 387-8314
San Diego.....	1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260, or P.O. Box 1750, San Diego, CA 92112-4147, (619) 237-0502
San Francisco.....	One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall Room 190, San Francisco, CA 94102-4698, (415) 554-4176*
San Francisco Health Dept.	101 Grove Street, Room 105, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 554-2700**, (415) 554-2710***
San Joaquin.....	6 South El Dorado, Second Floor, or P.O. Box 1968, Stockton, CA 95201-1968, (209) 468-3939
San Luis Obispo.....	1144 Monterey Street, Suite C, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-5080
San Mateo.....	Vital Records, 1st Floor, 555 County Center Dr., Redwood City, CA 94063-1665, (650) 363-4713
Santa Barbara.....	1101 Anacampa Street, P.O. Box 159, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0159, (805) 568-2250
Santa Clara.....	County Government Center, East Wing, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95110, (408) 299-4227
Santa Cruz.....	701 Ocean Street, Room 230, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-2800
Shasta.....	1450 Court Street, Suite 208, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-5678
Sierra.....	P.O. Drawer D., Downieville, CA 95936, (530) 289-3295
Siskiyou	311 4th Street, P.O. Box 8, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-8065
Solano.....	675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533, (707) 784-6290
Sonoma.....	585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103F, or P.O. Box 1709, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, (707) 565-2651
Stanislaus.....	1021 I Street, Suite 101, or P.O. Box 1670, Modesto, CA 95353, (209) 525-5251
Sutter.....	433 Second Street, or P.O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555, (530) 822-7134
Tehama.....	633 Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-3350
Trinity.....	101 Court Street, P.O. Box 1215, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1215
Tulare.....	County Civic Center, 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 105, Visalia, CA 93291-4593, (559) 733-6419
Tuolumne.....	2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 533-5531
Ventura.....	800 South Victoria Avenue, LN 1260, Ventura, CA 93009, (805) 654-2295
Yolo.....	625 Court Street, Room B01, Woodland, CA 95695, (530) 666-8130
Yuba.....	915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901, (530) 749-7851

* Marriages

** Births

*** Deaths